



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**
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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

September 16, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1297 (Chesbro) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

The County of San Bernardino respectfully request your signature on AB 1297, which will ensure timely federal Medicaid reimbursement for Specialty Medi-Cal Mental Health Managed Care services for California's Medi-Cal beneficiaries living with serious mental illness.

AB 1297 will bring the state's requirements for the Specialty Medi-Cal Mental Health Managed Care program into alignment with federal requirements in order to maximize federal reimbursement. During these difficult economic times, it is vital that California's public mental health system avail itself of all available federal resources.

AB 1297 requires federal reimbursement amounts to be consistent with federal Medicaid requirements. Currently, California uses administratively-established Statewide Maximum Allowances (SMAs), which have been frozen since Fiscal Year 2006-07. By utilizing federal Medicaid Upper Payment Limits instead of SMAs, the County will be able to fully recover federal reimbursement for the costs we incur in serving eligible populations.

Additionally, AB 1297 allows the County, after certification of expenditures, to be reimbursed for administrative costs in a manner consistent with federal Medicaid requirements.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1297 and respectfully request your signature on the bill. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, the County's Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. The County thanks you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, CHAIR
Board of Supervisors